Amendments to the Claims

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A process for the solid phase synthesis of bio-oligomers ~~characterised in that~~ wherein at least one washing step is carried out in the presence of a salt $(X^{n+})_m (Y^{m-})_n$, wherein X represents a cation, n represents the charge of the cation, y represents an anion and m represents the charge of the anion.

2. (currently amended) A process for attaching an appropriately protected monomer or oligomer to another monomer or oligomer which is protected by a protecting group and which is attached to a support, comprising ~~the following steps~~:
   a) ~~cleave~~ cleaving the protecting group from the monomer or oligomer attached to the support; ~~and then~~
   b) ~~perform~~ performing a thorough washing; and ~~then~~
   c) ~~add~~ adding an appropriately protected monomer or oligomer and ~~couple~~ coupling it to the monomer or oligomer that is attached to the support, to form a covalent bond; ~~characterized in that during the process,~~ wherein a salt $(X^{n+})_m (Y^{m-})_n$ which is soluble in a solvent used in this ~~process, is added,~~ process is added, and wherein, if the salt $(X^{n+})_m (Y^{m-})_n$ is added in step c), the solvent is neither a chloroform/phenol nor a chloroform/trifluoroethanol mixture.

3. (currently amended) A process for attaching an α-amino protected amino acid or peptide having an unprotected C-terminus to another amino acid or peptide which is protected by an α- amino protecting group and which is attached to a support during solid phase peptide synthesis comprising ~~the following steps~~:
   a) ~~cleave~~ cleaving the α-amino protecting group from the amino acid or peptide attached to the support; ~~and then~~
   b) ~~perform~~ performing a thorough washing; and ~~then~~

c) ~~add~~ adding an α-amino protected amino acid or peptide having an unprotected C-terminus and ~~couple~~ coupling it to the amino acid or peptide that is attached to the support and that now has an unprotected N-terminus, to form an amide bond;

~~characterized in that during the process,~~ wherein a salt $(X^{n+})_m(Y^{m-})_n$, which is soluble in a solvent used in this ~~process, is added,~~ process is added, and wherein, if the salt $(X^{n+})_m(Y^{m-})_n$ is added in step c), the solvent is neither a chloroform/phenol nor a chloroform/trifluoroethanol mixture.

4. (currently amended) ~~A process~~ The process according to ~~claim 2 or 3~~ claim 2, which additionally comprises the following step:

d) ~~perform~~ performing a thorough washing;

wherein step d) is performed after step c).

5. (currently amended) A process for attaching an α-amino protected amino acid or peptide having an unprotected C-terminus to another amino acid or peptide which is protected by an α- amino protecting group and which is attached to a support during solid phase peptide synthesis comprising ~~the following steps~~:

a) ~~cleave~~ cleaving the α-amino protecting group from the amino acid or peptide attached to the support;

b) ~~perform~~ performing a thorough washing:

c) ~~add~~ adding an α-amino protected amino acid or peptide having an unprotected C-terminus and ~~couple~~ coupling it to the amino acid or peptide that is attached to the support and that now has an unprotected N-terminus, to form an amide bond; and

d) ~~perform~~ performing another thorough washing;

~~characterized in that~~ wherein at least in step a), a salt $(X^{n+})_m(Y^{m-})_n$, which is soluble in a solvent used in this step, is added.

6. (currently amended) A process for attaching an α-amino protected amino acid or peptide having an unprotected C-terminus to another amino acid or peptide which is protected by an

α-amino protecting group and which is attached to a support during solid phase peptide synthesis comprising ~~the following steps~~:

a) ~~cleave~~ cleaving the α-amino protecting group from the amino acid or peptide attached to the support;

b) ~~perform~~ performing a thorough washing;

c) ~~add~~ adding an α-amino protected amino acid or peptide having an unprotected C-terminus and ~~couple~~ coupling it to the amino acid or peptide that is attached to the support and that now has an unprotected N-terminus, to form an amide bond;

d) ~~perform~~ performing another thorough washing; ~~and~~

~~characterized in that~~ wherein at least in step b), a salt $(X^{n+})_m(Y^{m-})_n$, which is soluble in a solvent used in this step, is added.

7. (currently amended) A process for attaching an α-amino protected amino acid or peptide having an unprotected C-terminus to another amino acid or peptide which is protected by an α-amino protecting group and which is attached to a support during solid phase peptide synthesis comprising ~~the following steps~~:

a) ~~cleave~~ cleaving the α-amino protecting group from the amino acid or peptide attached to the support;

b) ~~perform~~ performing a thorough washing;

c) ~~add~~ adding an α-amino protected amino acid or peptide having an unprotected C-terminus and ~~couple~~ coupling it to the amino acid or peptide that is attached to the support and that now has an unprotected N-terminus, to form an amide bond; and

d) ~~perform~~ performing another thorough washing;

~~characterized in that~~ wherein at least in step c), a salt $(X^{n+})_m(Y^{m-})_n$, which is soluble in a solvent used in this step, is added, and wherein the solvent is neither a chloroform/phenol nor a chloroform/trifluoroethanol mixture.

8. (currently amended) A process for attaching an α-amino protected amino acid or peptide having an unprotected C-terminus to another amino acid or peptide which is protected by an

α-amino protecting group and which is attached to a support during solid phase peptide synthesis comprising ~~the following steps~~:

a) ~~cleave~~ cleaving the α-amino protecting group from the amino acid or peptide attached to the support;

b) ~~perform~~ performing a thorough washing;

c) ~~add~~ adding an α-amino protected amino acid or peptide having an unprotected C-terminus and ~~couple~~ coupling it to the amino acid or peptide that is attached to the support and that now has an unprotected N-terminus, to form an amide bond; and

d) ~~perform~~ performing another thorough washing:

~~characterized in that~~ wherein at least in step d), a salt $(X^{n+})_m(Y^{m-})_n$, which is soluble in a solvent used in this step, is added.

9. (currently amended) ~~A process~~ The process according to ~~any of claims 1 to 8~~ claim 1, wherein the salt $(X^{n+})_m(Y^{m-})_n$ is selected from the group consisting of quaternary ammonium salts, ionic liquids, phosphonium salts, sulfonium salts, inorganic salts ~~or~~ and any mixture thereof.

10. (currently amended) ~~A process~~ The process according to claim 9 wherein $(Y^{m-})_n$ is selected from the group consisting of fluoride, chloride, bromide, iodide, hydroxide, carbonate, hydrogenocarbonate, nitrate, phosphate, hydrogenophosphate, dihydrogenophosphate, tetrafluoroborate, hexafluorophosphate, acetate, carboxylates, cyanides, isocyanates, tetra-alkylborates, tetra-arylborates, trifluoroacetate, tosylate, mesylate ~~or~~ and any mixture thereof.

11. (currently amended) ~~A process~~ The process according to claim 9 wherein the quaternary ammonium salt is selected from the group consisting of benzyltrimethylammonium hydroxide, benzyltrimethylammonium chloride ~~or~~ and benzyltrimethylammonium carbonate, the phosphonium salt is tetrabutylphosphonium bromide and the sulfonium salt is triethylsulfonium tetrafluoroborate.

12. (currently amended) ~~A process~~ The process according to ~~any of claims 2 to 11~~ claim 2, wherein the salt added in step a), b), c) or d) is also added in one or more of the other steps.

13. (currently amended) ~~A process~~ The process according to ~~any of claims 3 to 12~~ claim 3, wherein the α-amino protecting group is Fmoc (9-fluorenylmethoxycarbonyl) or Nsc (p-Nitrophenylsulphonylethoxycarbonate) or any other base-cleavable protecting group.

14. (currently amended) ~~A process~~ The process according to ~~any of claims 3 to 12~~ claim 3, wherein the α-amino protecting group is Boc (tert-butoxycarbonyl), Trt (trityl), Bpoc (2-p-Biphenylisopropyloxycarbonyl) or any other acid-cleavable protecting group.

15. (currently amended) ~~A process~~ The process according to ~~any of claims 3 to 12~~ claim 3, wherein the α-amino protecting group is selected so that neither acid nor base treatment is required for its cleavage.

16. (currently amended) ~~A process~~ The process for synthesising a peptide comprising:

a) attaching a first amino acid or peptide, having an α-amino protecting group, via its C-terminus to a functionalized support;

b) ~~perform~~ performing the process according ~~to any of claims 3 to 15~~ claim 3 with the following amino acid or peptide foreseen in the sequence;

c) ~~repeat step b'~~ repeating step b) with the appropriate amino acids or peptides until the desired sequence is achieved; and

d) ~~cleave~~ cleaving the assembled peptide from the support by an appropriate method.

17. (canceled) ~~Use of a salt (Xn+)m (Ym-)n in solid phase peptide synthesis for improving the washing of the peptide resin.~~

18. (canceled) ~~Use according to claim 17 for improving the elimination of excess amino acids or cleavage reagents.~~